

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed herein is a mechanized lift platform for extending a camera and sensor, individually or collectively, out of a flying craft and retracting the camera and sensor back into the flying craft upon completion of use. The camera and sensor in the fully extended position provides a full field of view. The camera and sensor is extended and retracted through concealment doors. The concealment doors are closed when the camera and sensor are in the fully retracted position such that the lift platform and camera and sensor are not subject to any outside environment and the flying craft is able to retain its original flying characteristics. The camera and sensor mechanized lift platform has particular application for aerial photography, video, sound collection and multimedia. A method of capturing images, sounds and data comprising the steps of: Providing a device for extending a camera and sensor outside a flying craft whereby the camera and sensor can be completely retracted into the aircraft, having a platform structure to mount a camera and sensor, a power source, mechanized liner motion structure installed in flying craft to stabilize and guide the camera and sensor mounting platform during extension and retraction, concealment doors to open and close, relay switches to the flying craft cockpit and/or cabin to operate the lift platform and concealment doors, viewing and recording equipment connected to camera and sensor; and opening the concealment doors and extending the camera and sensor during flight to collect images, sounds and data or any combination thereof and display said collected images in a live graphical display in aircraft or to a remote site and

upon completion of camera and sensor activities, retracting the lift platform inside the aircraft and closing the concealment doors.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the camera and sensor mechanized lift platform is extended through opened concealment doors during flight to collect images, sounds and data or any combination thereof and upon completion of camera and sensor activities, the lift platform is retracted inside the aircraft and the concealment doors are closed such that the original flying craft speed, maneuverability and aerodynamic characteristics are not altered.